

Minutes of the Meeting of Project Monitoring and Evaluation Group Meeting held on 26th May, 2011 to consider the Computer Education Plans of UT Administration of Dadra & Nagar Haveli, State Governments of Maharashtra, Mizoram, NCT of Delhi, and proposal from SIET Kerala and CIET under Scheme of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) in School Scheme.

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The first meeting of the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Group (PMEG) for the Centrally sponsored scheme of 'ICT in Schools' was held on 26th May, 2011 at 1200 hrs in Conference Room under the Chairmanship of Secretary (SE&L) to consider the Computer Education Plans (CEPs) received from the UT Administration of Dadra & Nagar Haveli, State Governments of Maharashtra, Mizoram, NCT of Delhi, and proposal from SIET Kerala and CIET. A list of the participants is annexed.

2. Initiating the discussion, Director (School 5) welcomed the Members of PMEG and representatives of the State and highlighted the following issues:

- i) Third Party evaluation of the implementation of the scheme in the State/UT was to be done and the State Govts. were requested in February 2009 and thereafter reminded to get this done. However, barring 3 States, i.e. State Govt. of Kerala, Sikkim and Punjab, the third party evaluation reports from other States and UTs are still awaited.
- ii) Progress report and utilization certificate (in proper format) of earlier releases is a pre-requisite for further release of funds.
- iii) As per the scheme, all schools being covered should have broad band or internet connectivity. However, it has been seen from few official visits that schools covered are not having broad band connectivity or even internet connectivity. This is essential and States/UTs should ensure that all schools being covered under ICT scheme should have broad band/internet connectivity.
- iv) It has been noticed that under the BOOT Model most of the teachers are being appointed on contract basis of Rs.2000/- or Rs.2500/- and these teachers are utilized both for elementary as well as secondary ICT teaching.
- v) In the revised ICT scheme, provision has been made for training of teachers. State /UT Govts. should ensure that all teachers should be trained not only in usage of ICT but also using ICT as a tool for teaching.
- vi) Presence of a dedicated ICT teacher is one of the pre-requisite in the scheme in respect of schools proposed to be covered. It is the responsibility of the State./UT Govts. to ensure that a dedicated teacher for the secondary school and higher secondary school is appointed. Provision for this has been made in the scheme.
- vii) State Govt. should incorporate ICT in secondary and higher secondary curriculum.
- viii) State/UT Govts. are also advised to arrange for the learning assessment of the students in ICT.

3. **Thereafter the Computer Education Plans of the States were taken up for consideration of PMEG.**

4. Dadra & Nagar Haveli

4.1 Director (Education) UT Administration of D&NH made a presentation which is summarized below:

- 1st installment for coverage of 13 schools in 2010-11 was received at the fag end of the financial year (March 2011); therefore the funds could not be utilized and sought for carry forward permission.
- In the first phase, 8 schools were covered; 6 schools in second phase and 13 schools in the third phase.
- 140 computers and 28 printers have been installed.
- Out of 28 schools, 5 schools located in urban area are having broad band internet connectivity, 1 school is having ordinary internet connectivity and 14 servers have been installed.
- Present proposal is to cover 1 higher secondary school which had been left out in the previous proposals.
- Financial assistance was also for construction of 10 additional computer labs at a cost of Rs.102.40 lakh. Additional lab is required keeping in view the numerous strength of the students in the schools.

4.2. After the presentation, following observations were made by the Members:

- Carry forward permission may be granted for which a formal note from the UT Administration is required.
- Financial assistance for construction of 10 additional computer labs is not permissible under the scheme.
- There is a lot of flexibility under RMSA and the UT Administration can take advantage of this and seek financial assistance for construction of computer labs under RMSA.
- UT Administration has not informed as to how the teachers are to be trained and no proposal has been received in this regard.
- Similarly, no proposal for development of e content has been proposed by the UT Administration.
- Director (Education), UT Administration of D&NH informed that HCL is implementing the scheme in the UT Administration under BOOT model but is not interested in undertaking training of teachers.
- Chairperson stated that during a recent visit to some schools in Tripura, where ICT scheme is being implemented through Kolkata based vendor, i.e. ACES, there is no provision of training and the implementation of the scheme leaves much to be desired.
- The implementation of the scheme through BOOT model depends a lot on vendors and there is no provision for in house capacity building as the State Govt. leaves the entire responsibility of appointment of teachers and training of teachers to the vendors.
- Director (Education), NCT of Delhi stated that accessibility of computers in the school is also a problem. In the State of Delhi, the numbers of students in each school is huge with some schools having strength of 5000 students. With 10 computers being provided under the scheme per school, there is very little chance of each student getting to use computers, particularly in government and government aided schools. It was pointed out that as a sum of Rs.5.10 lakh per school is earmarked for computer and peripherals, the schools should have the

flexibility of buying more computers, as the cost of computers has come down and also with use of N computing, more computers can be bought with the stipulation that the amount should not exceed Rs.5.10 lakh per school for hardware. This has already been indicated on Page 4 (para 3.1.3) of the guidelines.

- Director SIET Kerala stated that in Kerala all MPs and MLAs have earmarked 5% of MPLAD and MLALAD Funds for educational purposes and the Collector is authorized to earmark the stipulated amount for such purposes. Accordingly, where a need has been felt, the Collector has been able to tap these funds for supplementing the ICT @ Schools Scheme.

4.3 After discussion, the following decisions were taken by the PMEG:

- i) 1 Higher Secondary school was approved for coverage under ICT scheme under Outright purchase mode.
- ii) Construction of 10 additional computer labs was not recommended as it is not permissible under the scheme.
- iii) Kerala Model may be shared with other State/UT Govts.
- iv) In house capacity building of school teachers in ICT should be one of the major thrust areas of Sub Committee of CAGE on ICT Policy for suggesting recommendations.

5. Maharashtra

5.1. Director of School Education, Govt. of Maharashtra, made a presentation, the highlights of which are:

- 500 schools were covered under the first phase, 2500 schools are being covered under the second phase.
- The schools which are being selected for coverage have electricity connection as well as facility for broadband connection.
- State Govt. proposed to cover 5000 schools under BOOT Model in 2011-12.
- 22.00 lakh students would be benefited by coverage of 5000 schools.
- The vendors have not been short listed but will be identified through a tendering process.
- Training of teachers would be the responsibility of the vendor under BOOT Model.
- State Govt. has made a budgetary provision of Rs.675 crores (Rs506.25 crores as Central Share and Rs168.75 cores State Share).
- Monitoring and implementation of the project will be done both at district and state level by monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of Deputy Director and Director respectively.
- The cost of implementation of ICT Scheme in each school comes to Rs13.50 lakhs per school.

5.2. After the presentation the following observations were made :

- Teachers training should be the responsibility of State/UT Govts. as delegating the responsibility to the vendor may result in the dilution of quality of training.

- The State Govt. has not put in place any mechanism to ensure proper standards are maintained in the quality of training.
- The break up of Rs.13.50 lakhs per school includes both non-recurring as well as recurring expenditure.
- The cost of UPS proposed to be procured @ Rs3.00 lakh each was found to be high. The Director clarified that the UPS proposed to be procured will provide 4 hour backup. The State Govt. was advised that making provision for a generator per school would be more cost effective. Further, the scheme provides financial assistance for the fuel for generator @ Rs.1000/- per month per school.
- The Director agreed to propose for a procurement of a one hour back-up in place of 4 hour back-up to bring down the cost.
- State Govt. has not got the scheme evaluated. It was suggested that the State Govt. get third party evaluation done immediately.
- On the issue of ensuring that the scheme is being implemented properly by the vendor, 70% payment is made on installation of hardware while the balance 30% is made on the performance of the students. The State Govt. conducts examination of all the students and based on the performance of the students the balance 30% of funds is released to the vendor.
- Training of teachers is a part of contract as per the bidding document.

5.3. After discussion, following were the recommendations of PMEG:

- (i) Coverage of 5000 schools under Boot Model for a period of five years w.e.f 2011-12 to 2015-16.
- (ii) The Central share of Rs.4.80 lakh per school would be released as follows:
 - (a) 2011-12 for 5000 schools @Rs1.00 lakh per school
 - (b) 2012-13 for 5000 schools @Rs1.00 lakh per school
 - (c) 2013-14 for 5000 schools @Rs1.00 lakh per school
 - (d) 2014-15 for 5000 schools @Rs1.00 lakh per school
 - (e) 2015-16 for 5000 schools @Rs0.80 lakh per school.
- (iii) Funds for evaluating the scheme through third party is permissible under the scheme under 'Monitoring and Evaluation' and the State can claim for the same on reimbursement basis, based on actual expenditure incurred.

6. **NCT OF Delhi**

6.1 Director, Education NCT of Delhi made a presentation. The highlights are as under:

- 594 schools were approved for coverage under Boot Model in 2010-11. However, the scheme could not be implemented due to partial funds being released only on 28.3.2011. The Director requested that PMEG permit last year's sanction of BOOT model implementation proposal to an Outright Purchase Model.
- 6 schools were upgraded to Higher Secondary schools and the present proposal is to cover the balance 516 higher secondary schools in 2011-12.
- In the previous year, ICT teachers were outsourced and the State Govt. has planned to appoint regular teachers. 1 Senior faculty for Higher Secondary and 2 Junior faculty for Secondary schools stands approved by the State Govt..

Recruitment Rules have also been framed. This process will take at least another two years and during this period the State Govt. would be outsourcing the ICT teaching in schools.

- Due to the decision of the State Govt. to appoint regular teachers in the schools for ICT teaching, a request was made that the State Govt. should be allowed to implement the scheme under Outright Purchase rather than under the BOOT Model. This is because under the BOOT Model, which ties up the hardware and State to one vendor for a period of five years, the responsibility of appointing teachers is of that of the vendor, who employs teachers on a contract basis for five years. Teachers are now proposed to be recruited on regular basis by the State Govt. and there would be problems in asking the vendor to remove the teachers appointed on contract basis, before the expiry of the contract period. Hence, a strong plea was made for allowing the States the flexibility in deciding the mode of implementation and not insist that the scheme should be implemented only on BOOT Model.

6.2. After the presentation, the following observations were made by the Members:

- (i) 594 schools have already been approved under Boot Model. However, funds were released only partly due to non-availability of funds.
- (ii) If the request of the State Govt. to permit change of the mode of implementation of the scheme from BOOT model (as already approved) to Outright Purchase, how will the State Govt. ensure maintenance of the infrastructure being procured under the Outright Purchase Model and of upgradation of these computers?
- (iii) Similarly, under the Outright Purchase Model, what is the mechanism available with the State Govt. for appointment of a dedicated teacher and the mechanism for teacher training not only in usage of ICT but also in ICT enabled subject teaching?
- (iv) The earlier emphasis on implementation of the scheme under BOOT Model was due to the following reasons:
 - (a) The maintenance of the computers would be taken care of by the vendors.
 - (b) The requirement of funds of 25% as State share under Outright Purchase is huge and it has been noticed that nearly all the States are finding it difficult to provide the matching savings for implementation of the scheme, particularly if the scheme is being implemented in a large number of schools, leading to time and cost overruns.
 - (c) The budgetary provision made by the State Govt. is adequate for implementing the scheme under Boot Model. If the State Govt. desires to implement the scheme under Outright Purchase then the State Govt. has to enhance the budgetary provision.

6.2. After discussion the following were the recommendations of the PMEG:

- (i) All State Govts. should be given the flexibility of implementing the scheme either under 'Outright Purchase' or 'BOOT Model'.
- (ii) If the State Govt. proposes to implement the scheme under outright purchase, the State Govt. should
 - (a) clarify whether dedicated ICT teachers are ensured?;
 - (b) how the computers would be maintained, and

- (c) whether the State Govt. has made the requisite budgetary provision as per the scheme.
- (iii) The coverage of 1110 schools (594 schools already approved in 2010-11 and proposed 516 schools is approved). However, the mode of coverage of the schools (Outright Purchase or on BOOT) would depend on a written communication from the State Govt.
- (iv) If the State Govt. proposes to cover all the schools under 'Outright Purchase' Model, then the State Govt. should submit the request along with the requisite budgetary provision made in the State budget (both for Central as well as State share) and also the arrangements made for maintenance of the computers and provision of dedicated ICT teachers along with details of teacher training mechanism.

7. Mizoram

7.1 Secretary (Education), Government of Mizoram made a presentation. The highlights are as under:

- There are 377 (337 Secondary and 40 Higher Secondary Schools) in Mizoram.
- 196 schools have already been covered so far.
- Broadband connectivity is available in schools located in district head quarters. However, other schools outside the district headquarters net connectivity provided by BSNL. The quality of BSNL net connection is bad and it has been taken up at different levels by the State Government.
- 871 teachers have been trained in ICT.
- 10634 computers and accessories have been provided.
- Induction training model has been prepared and training would be provided by IT Department of Mizoram.
- Evaluation Team has been set up with 2 professors from Mizoram University and one Sr. Adviser.
- E-content has been developed by the SCERT of Mizoram with the help of DOEACC and other private partners and the presentation of the same was made before the PMEG.
- In Class IX Computer Science has been made an elective paper, while from class XII it is compulsory.
- Present proposal is to cover 225 secondary schools which include 57 schools already covered under erstwhile class Scheme, due to the computers and accessories being too old and obsolete

7.2. After the presentation, the following observations were made:

- Even though tie-up with the IT Department of Mizoram for training of teachers is laudable, however, IT Department would only provide hardware training and the SCERT should link itself with the pedagogical aspects of the training. The e-content developed by the State appears to be good, the involvement of the child is passive, not active. E-content which is interactive and involves the child should be encouraged. It was clarified by the State Govt. that the training of teachers is a joint venture of both the Departments of IT and SCERT wherein technical advice regarding hardware is given by the Department of IT while the

Technology Education Cell of SCERT provides pedagogical and teacher training support.

- The State representatives were informed that CIET has been made the nodal agency for development of e-content and a Committee has already been set up to evaluate from the quality angle, the e-content being produced in the country whether by government institutions or private vendors.
- Under the ICT Scheme financial assistance has been earmarked to the State Govt. for developing e-content as well as for translation of e-content into other regional language. State Govt. should take advantage of this and any content being developed by them should be submitted to CIET so that it can be evaluated and, if required, suitable modifications can be made to make them reach the requisite standards.
- The request of the State Govt. for coverage of schools which have already been covered by the erstwhile Class Scheme was noted. As per the present scheme there is no provision of coverage of the schools which have already been covered by Class Scheme. The endeavour of the Govt. is to ensure that initially all Government and Government aided schools are covered under the ICT Scheme by provision of minimum 10 computers in each school.

7.3. After the discussion, the following decisions were taken by PMEG:

- (i) The number of schools to be covered under the ICT Scheme be restricted to 181 schools and the proposal of the State Govt. for coverage of 57 schools already covered under the erstwhile Class Scheme was not agreed to.
- (ii) 181 Schools were approved for coverage under 'Outright Purchase Model' and the Central share of Rs.5.76 lakh per school (non recurring) would be released to the State in two installments.

8. SIET, Kerala

8.1 Director, SIET, Kerala made a presentation the highlights of which are as under:

- CD Library has been set up by using MP and MLA funds.
- Last year 200 films were produced by children.
- The audio programmes produced are being transmitted through IGNOU and Gyan Vani.
- Audio programme is very useful and distributed for disabled children in different districts.
- Audio programmes are for target group of Higher Secondary school children and is broadcast daily between 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. through FM radio.
- The impact study of the programme being produced by SIET is scheduled to be undertaken by C-MAT and the report would be submitted within six months.
- IT School and SIET will jointly select sample schools of 10 each, interview the students and parents for feed back on the impact of programmes being produced by SIET.
- SIET has already prepared 65 programmes covering the entire syllabi of maths for Class X.
- Financial assistance of Rs521.15 lakhs was sought for preparation

- i) of 299 video programmes
- ii) 513 multi media learning objects
- iii) 277 audio programmes
- iv) Rs.10.00 lakhs for seminar on film making
- v) Rs.5 lakh for office expenses and
- vi) Rs.1 lakh for library books

8.2. After the presentation, the following observations were made by the Members:

- The Education Department should be asked for feedback on the utility of the programmes being produced by SIET. This should be the norm for all SIETs.
- The impact study proposed to be undertaken should be more comprehensive and analytical than the one proposed. The methodology to be used should be more scientific in manner and linked with the outcomes, i.e. the performance levels and increased skills of the child.
- NCERT has prepared digital learning kits, which try to stimulate experiments in Chemistry. So far 250 kits in digital mode have been developed by NCERT.
- Representatives of the Department of IT stated that online laboratories in Physics and Chemistry have been established by the Department at Mumbai in collaboration with Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeeth centres.

8.3. After the discussion the following decisions were taken by PMEG:

- i) SIET, Kerala was given approval to produce
 - a) 200 video programmes at a cost of Rs.60,000/- each.
 - b) 277 audio programme on a cost of Rs.25,000/- each. However, actual release will be subject to confirmation from CIET about the number of programmes to be produced as CIET has not given any comments/recommendations on the proposal of SIET.
 - c) 200 multi media learning objects at a cost of Rs.50,000/- each.
- ii) The financial assistance for the seminar on film making would be based on actuals or Rs.10.00 lakh, whichever is less.
- iii) Financial assistance of Rs.5.00 lakh for office expenses and Rs.1.00 lakh for library books would be given.

9. CIET

9.1 Shri K.G. Mathur Special Engineer, CIET made a presentation, the highlights of which are as follows:

- CIET-SIET Co-ordination meeting has taken a decision for modernizing SIETs. Accordingly, Committee has been set up and this Committee has recommended financial assistance of Rs.420 lakhs @ of Rs.84.00 lakhs for each SIET.
- PMEG in its meeting held on 1.11.2010 approved Rs.420 lakhs for upgradation of SIETs with the condition that before purchasing the equipments, CIET should look into the items to be procured along with their costs.
- Accordingly, CIET set up a Committee with Directors and Engineers of SIET, being Members and this Committee has now recommended for enhancement of funds from Rs.420 lakhs to Rs.1250 lakhs.
- Tender document is ready and, after approval of PMEG, open tender will be called for procuring these equipments for upgrading SIETs.

9.2. After the presentation, the following observations was made/queries raised:

- Whether the staff in SIET possess the requisite qualifications and training to handle the new equipment being procured?
- What is the responsibility of the State Govt. to ensure that these items being procured at such a huge cost will not lie idle and will be fully utilized?
- The staff of SIETs suffers from low motivation, only a few SIETs like SIET, A.P. and SIET, Kerala are performing to capacity.
- The cost of equipments to be procured for upgrading the SIETs has increased three fold from the proposed Rs.4.20 crores.

9.3. After the discussions, PMEG decided as follows:

- (i) A meeting with CIET would be held first to discuss about the SIETs and also whether the equipments being proposed to be procured can be fully utilized.
- (ii) Based on the outcome of the discussions, another meeting with Education Secretaries of the concerned States along with the Directors of SIET to chart out the line of action with regard to SIETs would be held.

10. **Other issues:**

The following additional observations were made by the Chairman and Members of PMEG:

- Financial assistance under ICT scheme for hardware should be linked to the number of students in a school rather than being restricted to the figure of 10 computers per school, regardless of the number of children in the school.
- Similarly, the number of smart schools in a State should also not be fixed but should relate to the size of the State/UT and the number of schools.
- JS(SE) stated that DOEACC Society under IT Department provides training to youth at nominal fees. All the infrastructure are provided by the Society. Honorarium for the faculty members is the responsibility of this Society. The Society provides a certificate at the end of the training programme, which improves the employability of the youth. DOEACC Society may be called for a presentation before State Secretaries of Education.

The meeting ended with a word of thanks to the Chair.

F.No. 2011 -School.5
Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Deptt. of School Education & Literacy
School 5 Section

The meeting of the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Group was held on 26th May at 1200 hrs under the Chairmanship of Secretary (SE&L) in Conference Rom to consider the Computer Education Plans (CEPs) received from the UT Administration of Dadra & Nagar Haveli, State Governments of Maharashtra, Mizoram, NCT of Delhi, and proposal from SIET Kerala and CIET.

2. Based on the discussion held, minutes of the meeting has been attempted and is placed below for consideration for approval.

(M.Dilip Kumar)
Under Secretary
31.5.2011

Director(School 5)